



Stormwater Best Management Practices Fact Sheet Series

Soil Stockpiles

The problem

Stockpiles that are not protected with erosion and sediment controls may cause sediment or material to be transported by stormwater and deposited in storm drain systems, natural waterways, or onto property owned by others.

What is considered a soil stockpile?

In accordance with the Arizona Construction General Permit (CGP) (AZG2008-001), excavated or fill material that is to be stored in a pile beyond the end of the work day is considered a stockpile that must be protected. Material may be stored without sediment controls during the day if it is being actively worked. Material that is excavated from a trench and that is used as backfill within a working day is not considered a stockpile for the purposes of the Maricopa County Stormwater Quality Program.



Soil stockpiles without proper sediment controls and located too close to a drainage inlet

Guidelines for sediment control for stockpiles

- Locate stockpiles a minimum of 50' away from concentrated flows of stormwater, drainage courses, and inlets.
- Do not place stockpiles on a paved surface or street.*
- Protect stockpiles from stormwater run-on using temporary perimeter sediment barriers such as berms, dikes, fiber rolls, silt fences, sandbags, gravel bags, or straw bale barriers.
- Provide silt fences or other effective sediment control BMPs around soil stockpiles except when stockpiles are being actively worked (i.e., controls must be in place evenings, weekends, and other down times).
- Implement dust control practices as appropriate on all stockpiled material.
- Soil stockpiles not disturbed for over 14 days must be covered or protected with soil stabilization measures.



Proper installation of erosion and sediment controls



Soil stockpile improperly located within a valley gutter and without erosion and sediment controls

* The CGP states that “the operator shall not place stockpiles in washes or other surface waters, or in stormwater conveyances such as curb and gutter systems, **or in streets leading to such conveyances.**” In accordance with MAG Standard Specifications, Section 601, the Maricopa County Stormwater Quality Program allows material excavated for underground utility installation to be temporarily placed on pavement during the course of the work day.

For additional information or questions, please contact:

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